

GREAT DEMAND TO HEAR WEDNESDAY CLUB CHORUS

Will Sing on All Three Nights
of Approaching May
Festival.

WELL-KNOWN SOLOISTS COMING

Stars and Orchestra From Metropolitan Opera House to Render Attractive Program—Composition by W. Henry Baker to Be Sung.

Reflecting the importance of the Wednesday Club chorus in connection with the May Festival of the organization, it is the insistent demand that this large aggregation of local singers should be heard in every concert given by the club. Under the excellent direction of W. Henry Baker, conductor, this great choir of over 200 trained voices has always rendered good work in the annual musicals, and this year the choral numbers will be the best it has ever given.

On Monday night, May 8, at the opening concert of the festival, the Wednesday Club chorus will be heard in Mendelssohn's "The Lorelei," which will be the first vocal number on the program. The soprano solos in this beautiful cantata will be sung by the gifted young artist, Olive Kline, who was engaged especially for this work. "The Lorelei" is not only a tuneful composition, but offers splendid opportunities for brilliant work on the part of the soloist, while the ensemble parts are in thorough keeping with the rest of the program of the initial concert, which will include solos by the king of all baritones, Pasquale Amato, and two numbers by Olive Kline. Certainly no more attractive or artistic program could be offered than that arranged for the opening night of the concert season.

On Tuesday night, May 9, the chorus will be heard in "Come, Let Us Sing," another cantata by Mendelssohn, with a tenor solo, Joseph Whittemore, the popular local singer, will do the solo work on this occasion, and the chorus work should again prove to be one of the most attractive numbers on the program.

WILL RENDER COMPOSITION BY CONDUCTOR BAKER

On Wednesday, May 10, the last night of the festival, and designated "artist night," because three of the noted singers of the Metropolitan Opera Company are on this program, the Wednesday Club chorus will sing a composition of W. Henry Baker, which is an elaborate setting of the Thirteenth Psalm, with full orchestral accompaniment. Critics who have listened to the rehearsal of the chorus are loud in the praises of this work by the local composer, and some of them do not hesitate to say that this will be the best number given by the chorus. The work includes three verses for the entire choir, one verse for soprano only and one verse for male voices unaccompanied.

Never before has there been so much interest manifested in these annual festivals, and the indications are that the house will be crowded at each concert. Certain it is that no such array of artists was ever before engaged for a concert season in Richmond, the list including Anna Case, soprano; Julia Culp, mezzo-soprano; Sophie Breslau, contralto; Giovanni Martinelli, tenor; Pasquale Amato, baritone, all of the Metropolitan Opera Company, and Olive Kline, who was offered an engagement with the Metropolitan, but, on account of her youth, postponed singing in this celebrated company for a few years. George Copeland, pianist, and the Metropolitan Opera House orchestra, with Richard Hageman, conductor, make up the remainder of those who will take part in the programs.

Some Wednesday Club Artists



MISS OLIVE KLINE, Soprano.



JOSEPH WHITEMORE, Tenor.



MISS ANITA KIRKWOOD, Pianist.



W. HENRY BAKER, Conductor.



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TO HONOR SHAKESPEARE IN ENGLAND, DESPITE WAR

Widespread Celebration of Tercentenary, With April 23 as Central Date.

EXACT BIRTH DATE IS OBSCURE

Services Arranged For in Practically All Churches of Kingdom on April Westminster Abbey.

LONDON, April 29.—There will be widespread celebration of the Shakespeare tercentenary, notwithstanding that war has interfered with the more ambitious plans outlined by the committee two years ago.

April 23 (equivalent to May 3 under the new-style calendar) will be the central date in the celebration. On that day 300 years ago the great dramatist died at Stratford-on-Avon. His exact birth date is more obscure, but there is some ground for believing that he was also born on April 23, although the date may have been anywhere between April 22 and May 4 of the year 1564.

The National Tercentenary Committee,



under the patronage of the King and Queen, has arranged for Shakespeare services in practically all the churches of the kingdom on April 30, with the principal service in Westminster Abbey. On Monday, May 1, a meeting will be held in the Mansion House, with an address, it is hoped, by the Prime Minister, and other speeches by various notables celebrating the national memory of the poet.

On May 2, there will be a gala performance of "Julius Caesar" under royal patronage at the Drury Lane Theater, with all the great English Shakespearean stars as actors.

May 3 will be celebrated in the schools as Shakespeare Day. On the same day, Professor John W. Mackail, of Oxford, will deliver the annual Shakespeare lecture at the British Academy, and a national committee will meet to arrange for a permanent memorial of the occasion in behalf of the school children of the nation. On Friday, the 5th, a pilgrimage takes place to Stratford-on-Avon, where the chief actors of the day will give a performance of scenes from Shakespearean dramas at the Memorial Theater.

MEMORIAL LECTURES

BY LEE AND WATSON

In London a series of memorial lectures will be given by Sidney Lee, at London University, beginning March 14, while a similar course will be given at Gresham College by Professor Foster Watson.

The London Shakespeare League has

arranged for the unveiling of a memorial in Curtain Road to mark the site of Shakespeare's Theater in Shoreditch. Under the same auspices there will be lectures on Shakespeare and a reading of "Hamlet" by Ben Greet. Mr. Greet is also in charge of the presentation of twenty Shakespeare plays at popular prices in the old Victoria Hall.

The British Empire Shakespeare Society will strike a commemorative medalion likeness which will go to all parts of the world.

Several of the London boroughs will have celebrations of their own. Hampstead, for example, will have a series of lectures and readings, under the chairmanship of the Mayor.

The national committee is preparing "A Book of Homage," which will contain tributes to the poet from various corners of the globe.

At Stratford-on-Avon, there will be a fortnight of Shakespearean performances, and a long series of special celebrations, including a procession to Shakespeare's church and a floral decoration of the tomb in the chancel.

Oxford is to have a tercentenary exhibition at Bodley's Library, opening on April 24. Manchester has a committee of its own which has arranged an elaborate series of lectures, recitals, performances of songs, prize competitions, and exhibitions. A permanent memorial will be provided at Manchester in the form of a Shakespeare

garden, laid out on lines parallel to that at Stratford-on-Avon.

There will be less important tercentenary performances and observances in practically every city of importance in Great Britain and Ireland. The feature at Dublin will be a gala performance of "Henry V."

The little group of enthusiasts who maintain that Bacon really wrote most of the works attributed to Shakespeare are reported to be preparing a "sermon of derision," of which, however, no details have been announced.

COMMISSIONS ISSUED

Governor Names Members of Several Important State Boards for Varying Periods.

Governor Stuart yesterday appointed as members of the Commission for the Uniformity of Legislation, Eugene C. Massie, of Richmond; James R. Catton, of Alexandria; and R. H. Willis, Democrat, of Leesburg. The House of Delegates, of Roanoke. The commissions are for two years.

Members of the board of visitors of Mt. Vernon were also appointed, and are to serve for one year, being: William H. White, of Richmond; Thomas S. Winston, of Richmond; Frank T. Miller, of Richmond; A. B. Chandler, Jr., of Fredericksburg; and A. D. Brockett, of Alexandria.

Peter Winston, of Farmville, was commissioned on the State Board of Charities and Corrections for a term of five years.

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